

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Horsham Golf Park  
Horsham, West Sussex**

**NGR TQ 165 285  
(NGR 516500 128500)**

**Planning Ref: DC/09/0746**

**ASE Project No: 4278  
Site Code: HOF10**

**ASE Report No: 2014150  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-178669**

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**May 2014**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by SPP LTD to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Horsham Golf Park, Horsham, West Sussex.*

*Natural clay was encountered and was typically overlain by both subsoil and topsoil. Generally, however, the groundworks did not penetrate deeply enough to reach the clay, but rather only exposed the top of the intact subsoil horizon. Only 2 Roman pits were encountered in the watching brief and these form part of a more widespread occupation of the area.*

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by SPP LTD to undertake a programme of archaeological work at Horsham Golf Park on Land at Hop Oast Farm, Horsham, West Sussex in advance of an extension to Horsham Golf Course (NGR 516500 128500; Figure 1).

### 1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to the Geological Survey of England and Wales 1:63,560 map (Sheet 302, *Horsham*) the natural geology of the site comprises outcrops of Horsham Stone and deposits of Weald Clay. The site is pasture and woodland.

### 1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A planning application for an extension to Horsham Golf Course (DC/09/0746) had the following condition attached by John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, Local Development, West Sussex County Council (WSCC):

*A number of archaeological features and finds, and the historic farmstead of Hop Oast Farm, have been identified within the site, some of which will be exposed, cut into or removed during the course of development. No objection is raised on archaeological grounds to the proposals, subject to safeguards to ensure the investigation and recording of ancient archaeological remains, at risk of damage from development, and of the Hop Oast farmstead.*

*Insofar as is reasonably practicable, provision should be made in the proposed long-term Golf Course Management Plan for the management and enhancement of historic landscape features such as the Wellingtonia Tree Avenue in Home Wood and the former military trenches to the south of Fairway 9.*

*In the event that this development is permitted, an Archaeology, Historic Landscape, and Historic Building Recording Mitigation Strategy should be submitted, for the above purposes, and agreed by the Local Planning Authority, prior to the start of development. Provision for archaeological investigation and recording should be made through the use of an appropriate planning condition, as follows:*

*"No ground excavations shall be carried out on the site until the applicant, or their agents or successor in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written Mitigation Strategy document and specification and timetable which have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."*

*Reason: To ensure that archaeological remains on the site shall be adequately investigated and recorded. Policies: refer PPG 16 (Archaeology*

*and Planning), November 1990, sects. 28-30; The South East Plan, May 2009, Policy BE6 (Management of the Historic Environment); Horsham District Council LDF Adopted General Development Control Policies document (December 2007), Policy DC10 (Archaeological Sites and Ancient Monuments).*

- 1.3.2 After a Desk-based Assessment had been undertaken (ASE 2009), an archaeological  ~~. The advice of John Mills, Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) (in the County Council's capacity as advisor to Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) on archaeological planning matters) has been sought and this mitigation strategy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared in response to these recommendations~~this condition. A ~~to carry out~~programme of archaeological and historic landscape and building recording work on the site was undertaken before the submission of an outline planning application to ascertain the character and quality of ~~targeted archaeological remains on the present site prior to development~~. The results were submitted to Horsham District Council before the start of fieldwork (ASE 2010; ASE 2011).
- 1.3.3 Subsequent to the evaluation trenching (ASE 2010a) and a Historic Building and Landscape Survey (ASE 2011) an intermittent archaeological watching brief was maintained on the groundworks associated with the golf course. This strategy was formulated after discussions between John Mills (WSCC), Neil Griffin (ASE) and Neil Burke (Horsham Golf Club). Originally a further stage of evaluation trenching was intended for the northern portion of the site, but subsequent to discussions this was changed to a continuation of the watching brief.
- 1.3.4 A mitigation strategy (ASE 2010b) was required by the planning condition for the proposed programme of archaeological investigation. This was prepared in accordance with the relevant guidelines and was duly approved by John Mills (WSCC) and all subsequent work was undertaken according to this document.

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The archaeological watching brief aimed to assess the past impacts on the site and paid particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out between March 2012 and November 2013 and conforms to the reporting guidelines set out in the mitigation strategy (ASE 2010b).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

2.1.1 The considered archaeological potential of the site is detailed in the Desk Based Assessment (ASE 2009) and is summarised below:

Prehistoric – Low (general); Moderate (Mesolithic)

Romano-British - Low

Anglo-Saxon - Low

Medieval - Low

Post-Medieval – Moderate

### **2.2 Prehistoric (c. 750 000 BC – AD43)**

2.2.1 No prehistoric sites are known within the area affected by the development, however three Mesolithic find spots within a 1km radius of the site are known. Mesolithic flintwork was recovered from Denne Park during the 1920's. quantities of struck flakes were recovered from a working floor during road marking behind Pickfolds Farm. Over 300 fragments of Mesolithic flint work were recovered from Bourne Hill house, Kerves Lane suggesting a Mesolithic hunting camp (Stevens 2009).

### **2.3 Romano-British (AD43 – AD410)**

2.3.1 A find spot of a single sherd of Romano-British coarse pottery is recorded from west of Kings Farm. Trench 7 is located to target a findspot of Romano-British pottery.

### **2.4 Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – AD1066)**

2.4.1 The Manor of Denne was formed as part of Washington manor in the mid-10<sup>th</sup> century, though no Anglo Saxon sites are recorded within the site.

### **2.5 Medieval (AD1066 – AD1485)**

2.5.1 No medieval sites are known within the 1km radius of the site, however, Denne Park is believed to have medieval, or earlier, origins.

### **2.6 Post-Medieval (AD1485 – Present)**

2.6.1 A number of listed post-medieval buildings are present within the site along with a series of features relating to the occupation of Denne Park by Canadian soldiers during World War 2. A post-medieval building visible on the 1844 tithe map (fig. 4) visible as a surface depression is targeted by trenches 7 and 8 of the evaluation.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was maintained intermittently on the groundworks (Figure 2). The vast majority of these groundworks were shallow (less than 0.3m) and the underlying natural geology was not exposed. In this case, visible finds in the topsoil were collected.

3.1.2 The site was monitored on the following dates. See Figure 2 for the areas:

Date	Archaeologist	Comment
20/09/2010	Gary Webster	Only topsoil/subsoil exposed
5/05/2011	Diccon Hart	Only topsoil/subsoil exposed
29/03/2012	Giles Dawkes	Only topsoil/subsoil exposed
13/04/2012	Gary Webster	Only topsoil/subsoil exposed
10/07/2012	Giles Dawkes	Only topsoil/subsoil exposed
14/08/012	Diccon Hart	Only topsoil/subsoil exposed
28/03/2012	Gary Webster	Only topsoil/subsoil exposed
23/08/2013	Guy Hopkinson	Only topsoil/subsoil exposed
17/09/2013	Kathy Grant	Only topsoil/subsoil exposed
18/10/2013	Greg Priestly Bell	Two pits excavated
15/11/2013	Greg Priestly Bell	Only topsoil/subsoil exposed

Table 1: Monitoring visits

#### 3.2 The Site Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Horsham Museum in due course along with the archive material from previous phases of work that have already been submitted under accession number HDM 2011.104. The contents of the archive for this phase of work are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	7
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	86
Bulk Samples	1
Finds	1 box

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Watching brief

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Topsoil	Site	Site	0.3m
02	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.2m
03	Layer	Natural geology	-	-	-
04	Cut	Pit	0.62m	0.56m	0.16m
05	Fill	Pit fill	0.62m	0.56m	0.16m
06	Cut	Pit	0.82m	0.6m	0.09m
07	Fill	Pit fill	0.82m	0.6m	0.09m

Table 3: Context list

- 4.1.1 Natural clay [03] was encountered at c. 71.80.m OD. This was overlain typically by c. 0.20m of subsoil [02] and c. 0.30m of topsoil. Generally, however, the groundworks did not penetrate deeply enough to reach the clay, but rather exposed the subsoil horizon.
- 4.1.2 Only 2 archaeological features were identified in the entire watching brief (Figure 3). These were 2 shallow sub-circular pits [04] and [06] (Figure 3) cut into the natural clay in areas where this was exposed. The pits were filled with brown silt clay [05] and [07] with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt clay fragments and contained 6 very small and abraded Roman pottery sherds.
- 4.1.2 A tiny amount of other finds were retrieved from the subsoil horizon [02].
- 4.1.3 No other archaeological features, finds or deposits were encountered.



## 5.0 THE FINDS

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)
2	1	22	1	32	1	10		
5	3	10						
7	3	6					1	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>

Table 4: Quantification of finds

### 5.1 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.1.1 A single piece of struck flint weighing 10g was recovered from subsoil [02]. It consists of a blade-like flake fragment made of light grey flint. It is not chronologically diagnostic.

### 5.2 The Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 A very small and abraded assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from pit fills [05] and [07] during the watching brief. The former contained 3 bodysherds, weighing 10g, including a sandy grey ware with sparse grog inclusions and 2 coarse orange oxidised sherds. Three small bodysherds from the same vessel, weighing 6g, were found in context [07], in a slightly finer, micaceous oxidised ware. None of the sherds is considered closely datable within the Roman period.

### 5.3 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The watching brief recovered a single sherd of pottery from subsoil [02]. This consists of the turned base of a German Frechen bottle with iron-mottled wash that is almost certainly of 17<sup>th</sup>- century date (22g).

### 5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Trista Clifford

5.4.1 A single fragment of CBM weighing 32g was recovered from subsoil [02]. The fabric is very fine sand tempered with sparse rounded medium quartz. The fragment is extremely abraded and only a small area of one original surface remains therefore identification of form is not possible.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 Natural clay was encountered overlain typically by c. 0.20m of subsoil and c. 0.30m of topsoil. Generally, however, the groundworks did not penetrate deeply enough to reach the clay, but rather only exposed the subsoil horizon. The intact subsoil suggests that the site was/is free from past mechanical impacts.
- 6.2 Only 2 features (pits) were encountered in the watching brief, but it is worth noting that the vast majority of the groundworks were not deep enough to encounter archaeological deposits.
- 6.3 From these pits, 6 small and heavily abraded pieces of Roman pottery were recovered and these clearly part of a more widespread occupation of the area. Recent work on nearby sites at the Millfields (south end of Southwater), at Broadbridge Heath, Tanbridge House School playing fields (East of A24) and further afield at Hills Place (just south of the A281 Guildford Road in Horsham c. 2km to the north) have all revealed Roman archaeology.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank SPP LTD for commissioning the work, Neil Burke of Horsham Golf Club and John Mills, WSCC for his guidance and monitoring. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and by Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation). The figures for this report were produced by Robert Cole.

**HER Summary**

Site Code	HOF10					
Identification Name and Address	Horsham Golf park, Horsham, west Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	516500 128500					
Geology	Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4278					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief√			
Type of Site		Rural √				
Dates of Fieldwork			WB. 2012-2013			
Sponsor/Client	SPP LTD					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary		Roman√				
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by SPP LTD to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Horsham Golf Park, Horsham, West Sussex.</p> <p>Natural clay was encountered and was typically overlain by both subsoil and topsoil. Generally, however, the groundworks did not penetrate deeply enough to reach the clay, but rather only exposed the top of the intact subsoil horizon. Only 2 Roman pits were encountered in the watching brief and these form part of a more widespread occupation of the area.</p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-178669**

### Project details

Project name	Horsham Golf Park
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by SPP LTD to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Horsham Golf Park, Horsham, West Sussex. Natural clay was encountered and was typically overlain by both subsoil and topsoil. Generally, however, the groundworks did not penetrate deeply enough to reach the clay, but rather only exposed the top of the intact subsoil horizon. Only 2 Roman pits were encountered in the watching brief and these form part of a more widespread occupation of the area.
Project dates	Start: 29-03-2012 End: 15-11-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HOF10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4278 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	PIT Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM HORSHAM Horsham Golf Park
Postcode	RH13 0AX
Study area	10.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 516500 128500 50.8946152074 0.156623667298 50 53 40 N 000 09 23 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 70.00m Max: 72.80m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	West Sussex County Council
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Giles Dawkes
Type of sponsor/funding body	private client
Project archives	
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Contents "Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography  
1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Watching Brief Report Horsham Golf Park, Horsham, West Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Giles Dawkes

Other bibliographic details 2014150

Date 2014

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication Portslade

Description grey report

Entered by Giles Dawkes (gilesdawkes@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 12 May 2014